

INL News Release
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NOTE TO EDITORS: NEI and INL officials associated with the tour will be available to answer questions from 1:30 to 3 p.m. MDT on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

Nuclear industry representatives visit nation's nuclear energy lab

IDAHO FALLS — The importance of U.S. Department of Energy research capabilities to the nation's nuclear energy industry is on display this week at Idaho National Laboratory.

Members of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the nuclear energy industry's policy organization, will be touring INL this week as part of an "industry open house." INL and NEI collaborate on efforts to educate people about the technical aspects of nuclear energy, and the open house is designed to show industry officials how INL can be a resource to them.

More than 20 industry representatives are paying their own way to see the laboratory, meet its scientists and engineers, and tour its distinctive research facilities. The tour group includes industry representatives from nine U.S. and international companies representing numerous aspects of the nuclear energy industry.

"We are very excited to have this opportunity to tour the Idaho lab to discover the important research that will profoundly shape future enterprises in the private sector," said Leslie Barbour, NEI's director of Federal Programs-Appropriations.

The representatives will see some of the lab's nuclear energy, national security, and other energy capabilities. Briefings will include a strong focus on INL's groundbreaking modeling and simulation tools, as well as a tour of the Advanced Test Reactor and post-irradiation examination capabilities at the Materials and Fuel Complex.

As the nation's nuclear energy laboratory and a federally funded research and development (R&D) center, INL's mission is to lead the nation's development of nuclear energy technologies. The lab supports R&D that is the responsibility of the federal government (such as that related to nuclear safety and fuel disposition). INL's tools also are available to commercial customers, and the lab wants to continue building strong partnerships with universities and commercial entities. The lab's R&D goals and economic development activities exemplify why INL is a good taxpayer investment.

INL is one of the DOE's 10 multiprogram national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of DOE's strategic goal areas: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development. Day-to-day management and operation of the laboratory is the responsibility of Battelle Energy Alliance.

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